



GREATER WASHINGTON

Board of Trade

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**Greater Washington Board of Trade President Calls Governor Kaine's Letter to Secretary Peters "a compelling recitation of the approvals received along the way in bringing rail to Dulles."**

Jim Dinegar, President & CEO of the Board of Trade said "Governor Kaine has transmitted a compelling letter highlighting the fact that, at each step of the way, every indication of approval was provided for this project." Of note is the citation that in 2007, the Federal Transit Administration Administrator writes that the "only significant outstanding issue at this time is whether or not the project's estimated cost would comply with the New Starts criteria."

Mr. Dinegar noted that "this letter from the Governor is a thorough and detailed response, accompanied by a notebook of all of the relevant correspondence and reports surrounding this project. This detailed correspondence is an appropriate response to Administrator Simpson's January 2008 letter and press conference calling into question the future of the Dulles rail project." Dinegar added that "this exchange between Governor Kaine and Secretary Peters highlights a willingness to work through discrepancies and miscommunications while expressing the desire to have a partnership with the federal government. Notable is the Governor's offer that if additional adjustments – small or large – are needed to proceed forward into final design, he was willing to explore those with Secretary Peters."

"The Greater Washington Board of Trade has worked in concert with the leading transportation advocates, policy makers, business leaders and others to make rail to Dulles a reality. By maintaining the dialogue directly between the Governor and the Secretary, it is our belief that the federal partnership will be preserved. We applaud the Governor for this timely effort and commend Secretary Peters for her willingness to get personally involved to work through the issues," Dinegar added.

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**Greater Washington Board of Trade**

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Founded in 1889, the Greater Washington Board of Trade is the Greater Washington region's premier business network and the only local business association representing all industry sectors. The Board of Trade helps its members' businesses grow by providing content-rich programs, connecting members with other business and nonprofit leaders and marketing Greater Washington's economic opportunities. As Greater Washington's regional business organization, the Board of Trade addresses business concerns that stretch across geographic boundaries. To learn more about the Greater Washington Board of Trade and its commitment to improving the region's business community, visit [www.bot.org](http://www.bot.org)